

## **Public Notice**

U S Army Corps of Engineers

Huntington District

In reply refer to Public Notice No. LRH-2007-286-KAN Issuance Date: March 12, 2008

Stream: Lick Run closing Date: April 11, 2008

Please address all comments and inquiries to:

U.S. Army USACE of Engineers, Huntington District

ATTN: CELRH-OR-F Public Notice No. (reference above)

502 Eighth Street

Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070 Phone: (304) 399-5710

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

**REGULATORY PROGRAM:** Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the USACE Regulatory Program.

**SECTION 10:** The USACE is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States. The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

**SECTION 404:** The USACE is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This notice serves as the USACE request to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) to act on Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the following application.

APPLICANT:

Pioneer Fuel Corporation 400 Patterson Lane

Charleston, West Virginia 25311

**LOCATION**: The proposed project can be found at latitude 37°53'24" and longitude 81°17'40" on the Pax and Eccles USGS quadrangle maps 7.5 minute series in Fayette and Raleigh Counties, West Virginia. The proposed project would result in disturbances within Lick Run and Right Fork of Lick Run, all of which are tributaries of Clear Fork, and Maynor Branch, Right Fork of Dixon Branch and Willis Branch, all of which are tributaries of Paint Creek. Clear Fork flows into the Big Coal River, a navigable water of the United States. Paint Creek and the Big Coal River ultimately flow into the Kanawha River, a navigable water of the United States.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge dredged and/or fill material into 9,539 linear feet of waters of the United States in conjunction with the construction, operation and reclamation of the MT-5B Surface Mine [approved under the Surface Control Mining and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) permit S-3010-06 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit WV1022121]. The applicant proposes to mine the Eagle, Powellton, Alma, Cedar Grove, Chillton, Campbells Creek, Peerless and the No. 2 Gas coal seam beds by the mountaintop and contour methods. Project components would include a five permanent valley fills (No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5), one mine-through area, and five temporary drainage control structures (No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5). Construction of the proposed drainage control embankments (No. 2, 3, 4 and 5) would result in temporary, direct discharges of dredged or fill material into 432 linear feet of waters of the United States. Drainage Control Structure No. 1 would be constructed outside of waters of the United States. Construction of the proposed underdrain systems associated with Valley Fills 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and recovery of coal reserves underlying the 3<sup>rd</sup> Left Hand Tributary of Willis Branch would result in the permanent, direct discharges of dredged material into 9,106 linear feet of stream channels. Details regarding the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed activities on waters of the United States are listed in the Table A of this public notice. The purpose of the proposed project is to construct attendant and associated features (i.e. overburden disposal and sediment control etc.) and to facilitate efficient extraction of 5.9 million tons of coal reserves in the SMRCA permitted area (723.45 acres) for a period of 10 years. Coal removed from the project area would be processed and moved off-site for delivery to customers. Plans for the proposed facility are attached to this public notice.

**ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS:** This project is not considered to be water dependent; therefore, the applicant is required to show that other less damaging practicable alternatives are not available that would achieve the overall project purpose. No permit will be issued until our review of the alternative analysis clearly shows that upland alternatives are not available to achieve the overall project purpose.

MITIGATION PLAN: A Compensatory Mitigation Plan has been submitted to the USACE to compensate for permanent and temporary impacts to waters of the United States. The applicant proposes to create 7,358 feet/1.190 acres of intermittent/ephemeral stream channel and 2.152 acres of wetlands, enhance 8,700 feet/11.580 acres of stream channel, and re-establish/restore 2,111 feet/0.198 acre of intermittent/ephemeral stream channel.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** A Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for this project. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain certification from the WVDEP.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES: The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) has been consulted and it has been determined there are no properties currently listed on the register that are in the area affected by the project. In a letter dated July 27, 2006, the West Virginia Division of Cultural and History stated "we have determined that no known archaeological sites listed on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the proposed mining activities....As no such structures of historical significance remain in the proposed area of impact, there will be no adverse effects on architectural resources." A copy of this public notice will be sent to the West Virginia Division of Culture and History for their review. Additional comments concerning archeological sensitivity of a project area should be based upon collected data.

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES REVIEW: Two federally listed endangered species, the Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) and Virginia big-eared bat (Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus), may occur within the project area. The applicant retained the services of Compliance Monitoring Labs, Inc. to complete a bat-mist net survey to determine presence or probable absence of the Indiana bat within the proposed project area. Four species were captured consisting of Northern long-eared bats (Myotis septrionalis), Little brown bats (Myotis lucifugus), Big-brown bats (Eptesicus fuscus) and Silver-haired bats (Lasionycteris noctivagans). No federally listed endangered bat species was captured as a result of

the survey efforts. A Phase I habitat suitability survey was conducted in February 2007 on six deep mine openings that could potentially be considered as winter habitat for hibernating bat species. All openings located lacked suitable characteristics needed to harbor hibernating endangered bat species, and therefore were eliminated as potential hibernacula. This public notice serves as a request to the USFWS for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the ESA Species Act of 1972 (as amended).

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW AND COMMENT: Any person who has an interest that may be adversely affected by the issuance of a permit may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer on or before the expiration date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest, which may be adversely affected, and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected by the activity. This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-331, the Regulatory Program of the USACE, and other pertinent laws, regulations, and executive orders. Our evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA. Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; of those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Written statements on these factors received in this office on or before the expiration date of this public notice will become a part of the record and will be considered in the final determination. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. For accuracy and completeness of the administrative record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

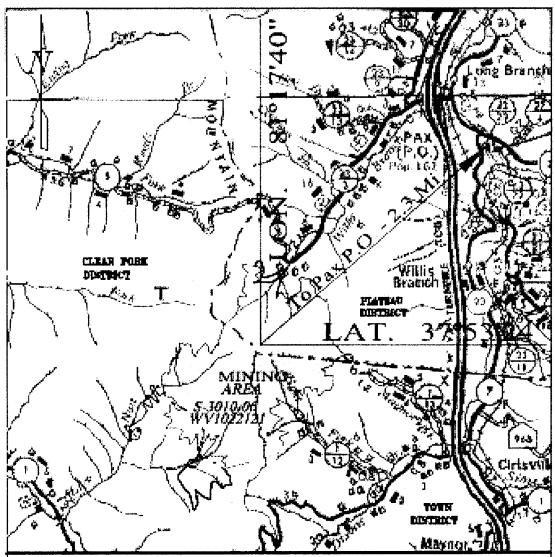
**CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:** All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before the close of the comment period listed on page one of this Public Notice. If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections. Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to Mrs. Teresa Spagna, Project Manager, South Regulatory Section, CELRH-OR-FS, USACE Huntington District, 502 Eighth Street, Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070.

Please note names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice become part of our administrative record and, as such, are available to the public under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Thank you for your interest in our nation's water resources. If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact Mrs. Teresa Spagna of the South Regulatory Section at (304) 399-5710.

Ginger Mullins, Chief Regulatory Branch

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Table 1. Proposed Direct and Indirect Impacts to Waters of the United States at the MT-5B Surface Mine.	ect Impacts to Waters of the Unite	ed States at the MT-5B Surface Mi	ne.						
		Perma	Permanent Impacts			Tempor	Temporary, Direct and Indirect Impacts	Indirect Impa	ıcts
Stream Name	Location	Intermittent		Ephemeral	ieral	Intermittent	tent	Ephemeral	neral
		(Ft)	(Ac)	(Ft)	(Ac)	(Ft)	(Ac)	(Ft)	(Ac)
Main Channel of Lick Run	Lick Run	1,100	0.152	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valley Fill I Total Impacts	al Impacts	1,100	0.152	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right Fork of Lick Run	Main Channel of the Right Fork of Lick Run	1,900	0.239	0	0	300	0.042	0	0
Right Fork of Lick Run	1* Right Hand Tributary of the Main Channel of the Right Fork Of Lick Run	0	0	0	0	100	9000	0	0
Right Fork of Lick Run	2 <sup>nd</sup> Right Tributary of the Main Channel of the Right Fork of Lick Run	009	0.033	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valley Fill 2/Drainage Control Structure (Pond) No.2 Total Impacts	ol Structure (Pond) No.2 pacts	2,500	0.272	0	0	400	0.048	0	0
Right Fork	Main Channel of Right Fork	589	990:0	11	0.001	420	0.066	0	0
Right Fork	8th Left Hand Tributary of the Main Channel of Right Fork	133	0.010	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valley Fill 3/Drainage Control Structure (Pond) No. 3 Total Impacts	ol Structure (Pond) No. 3 pacts	722	0.076	11	0.001	420	990.0	0	0
Maynor Branch	Main Channel of Maynor Branch	1,135	0.035	0	0	375	0.011	0	0
Maynor Branch	4th Left Hand Tributary of the Main Channel of Maynor Branch	001	0.005	194	0.006	0	0	0	0
Maynor Branch	3 <sup>rd</sup> Left Hand Tributary of the Main Channel of Maynor Branch	0	0	0	0	181	0.007	0	0
Valley Fill 4/Drainage Control Structure (Pond) No. 4 Total Impacts	ol Structure (Pond) No. 4 pacts	1,235	0.040	194	0.006	556	0.018	0	0
Willis Branch	Main Channel of Willis Branch	1,154	0.171	956	0.083	415	0.047	0	0
Willis Branch	3 <sup>rd</sup> Left Hand Tributary of Willis Branch	114 (Mine-Thru Area)	0.007	0	0	120	0.011	0	0
Willis Branch	4th Left Hand Tributary of the Main Channel of Willis Branch	820	0.035	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willis Branch	3 <sup>rd</sup> Right Hand Tributary of the Main Channel of Willis Branch	300	0.016	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willis Branch	2 <sup>nd</sup> Right Hand Tributary of the Main Channel of Willis Branch	0	0	0	0	20	0.002	150	900:0
Valley Fill 5/Drainage Control Structure (Pond) No.5 Total Impacts	ol Structure (Pond) No.5 pacts	2,388	0.229	926	0.083	285	0.060	150	9000
Total Impacts	pacts	7,945	0.769	191'1	0.090	1,961	0.192	150	9000



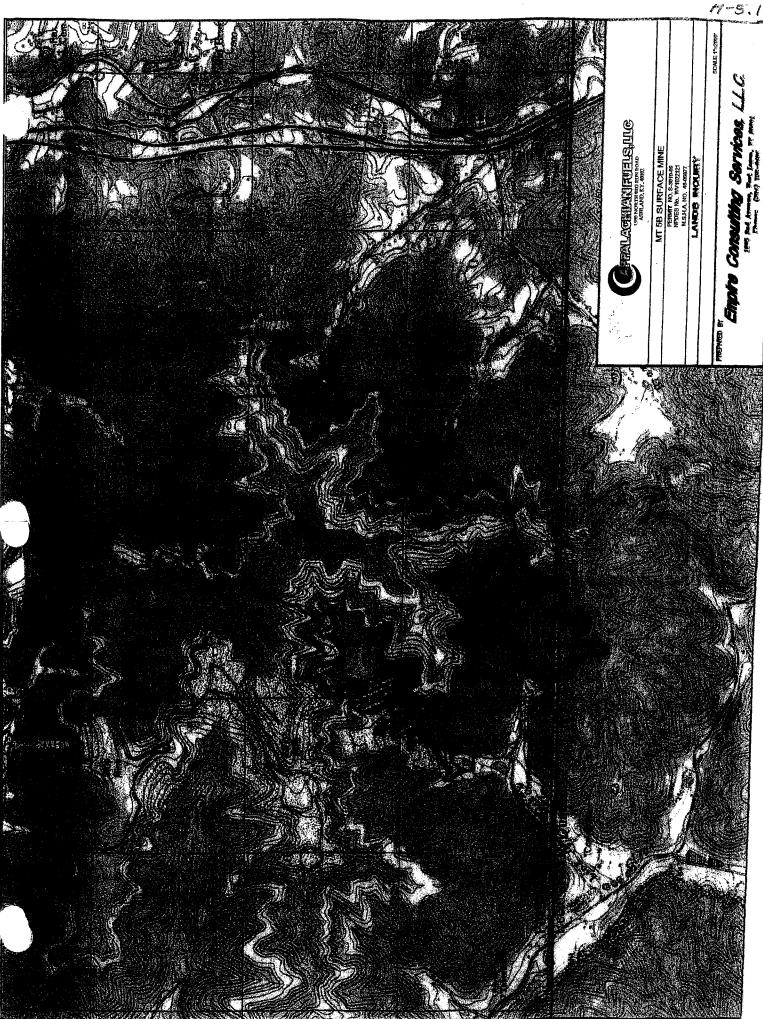
General Location Map
Taken From the Fayette & Raleigh County Highway Maps Plateau District, Fayette County

Clear Fork & Town Districts, Raleigh County

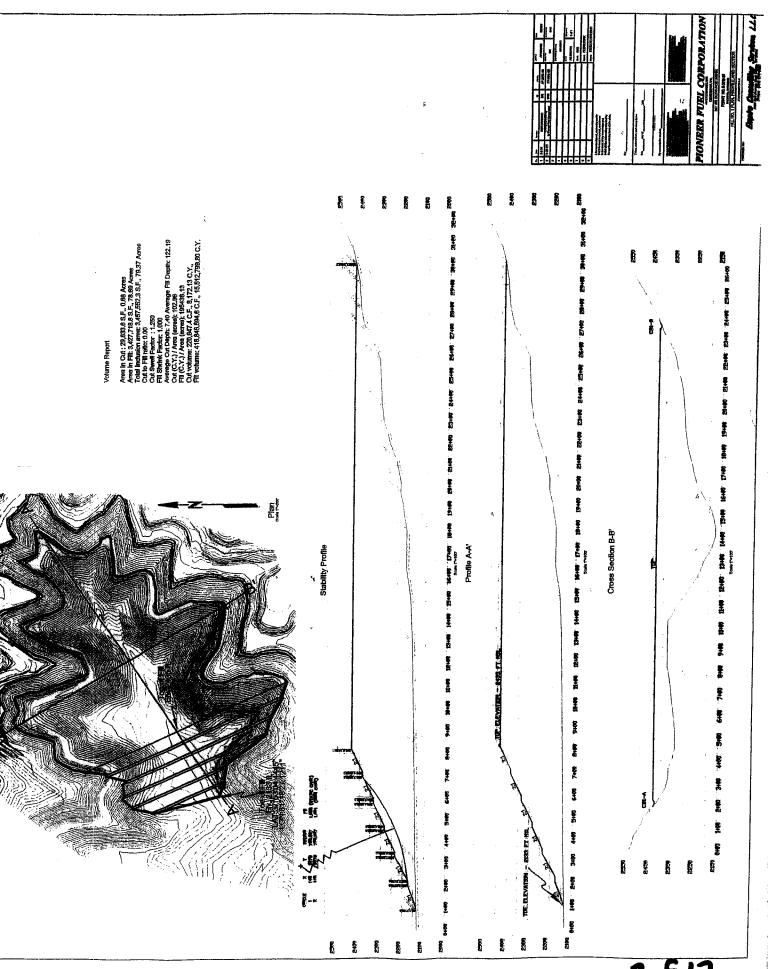
Receiving Streams. Willis Branch & unnamed tributaries of Willis Branch; Maynor Branch of Dixon's Branch, Right Fork & unnamed tributaries of Right Fork of Dixon's Branch, all of Pages Creek of Kanawka, Liek Run and commend tributaries of Liek Run of Clear Fork of Cost

River of Kanawha. Scale: 1"= 1 Mile

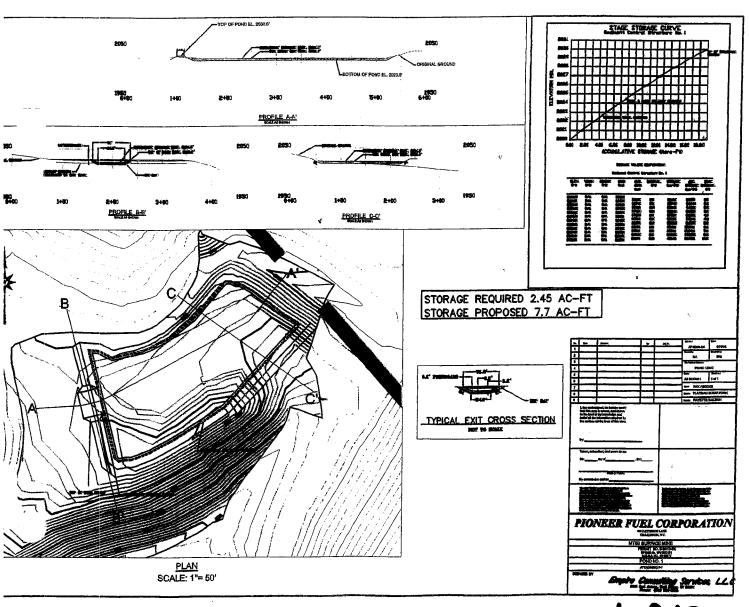
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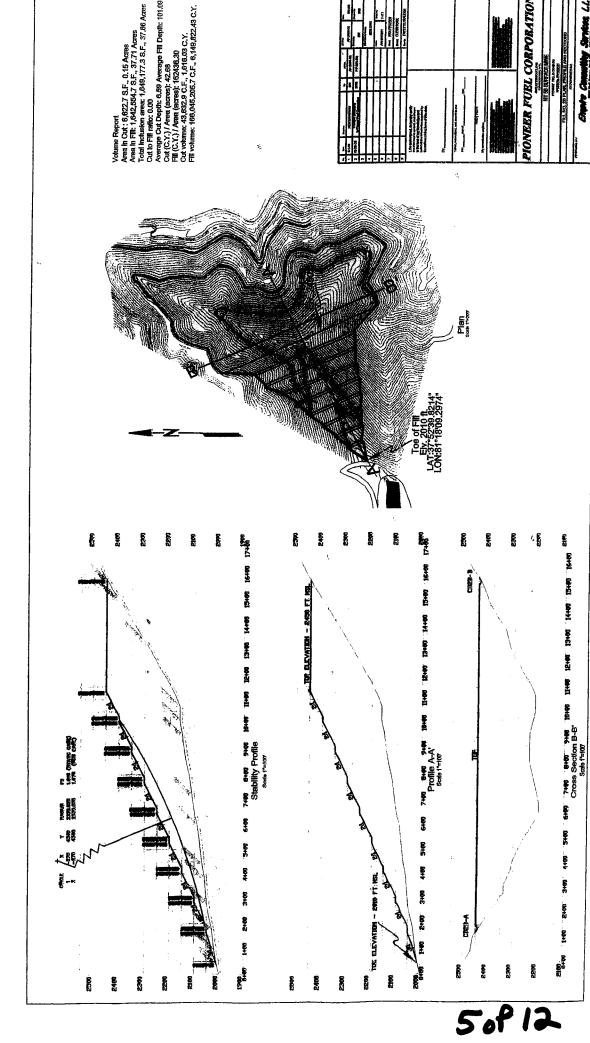


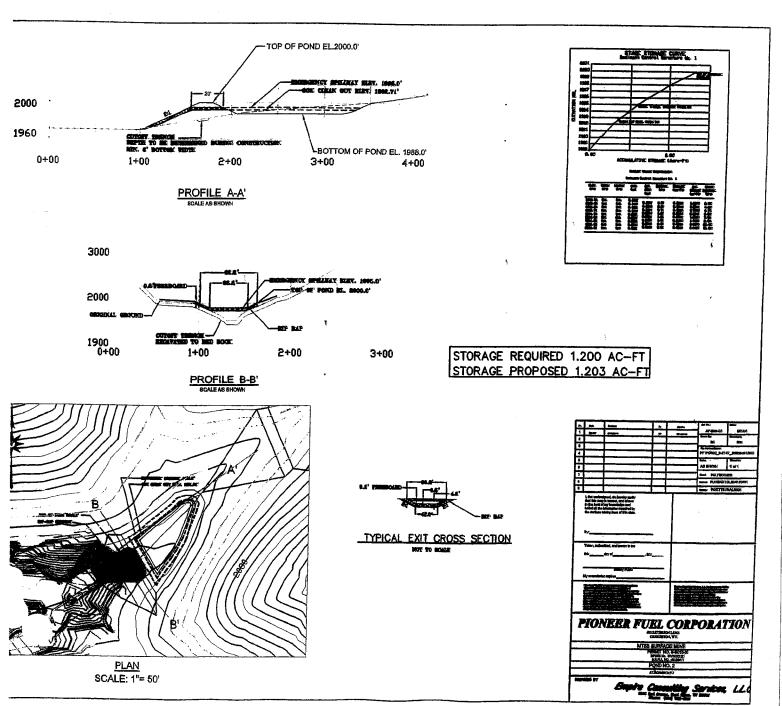
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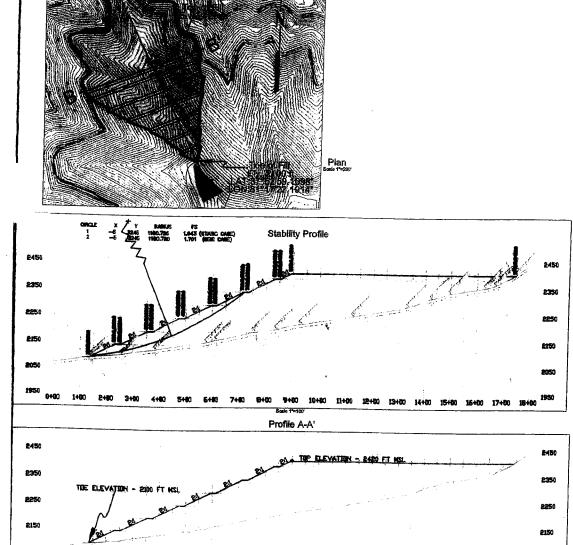


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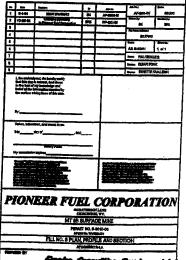
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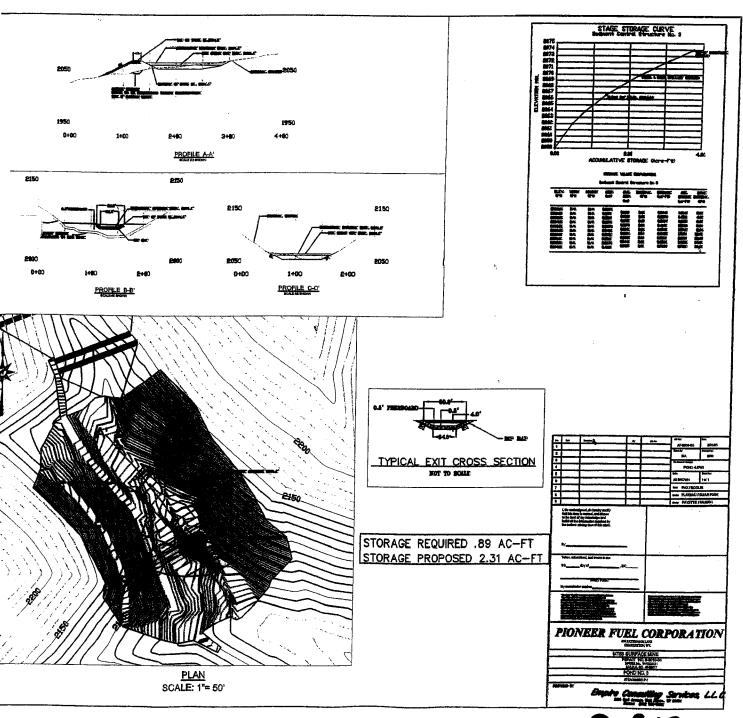
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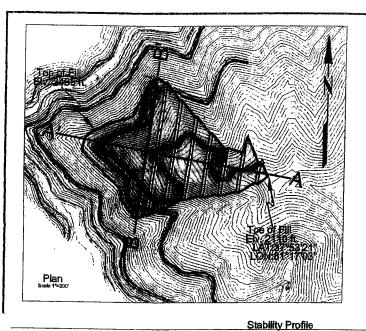
1+80 2+80 3+80

4+80

Volume Report
Area in Cut: 966.7 S.F., 0.02 Acres
Area in Fili: 838,621.4 S.F., 19.25 Acres
Total inclusion area: 839,588.2 S.F., 19.27 Acres
Cut to Fili railo: 0.00
Average Cut Depth: 1.44 Average Fili Depth: 75.71
Max Cut Depth: 5.56 Max Fili Depth: 204.56
Cut (C.Y.) / Area (acres): 2.68
Fili (C.Y.) / Area (acres): 122006.76
Cut volume: 1,384.6 C.F., 51.65 C.Y.
Fill volume: 63,493,035.8 C.F., 2,351,593.92 C.Y.







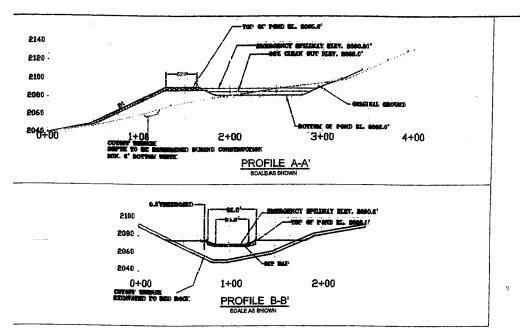
## Volume Report

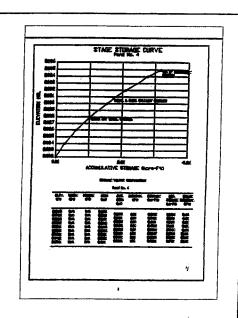
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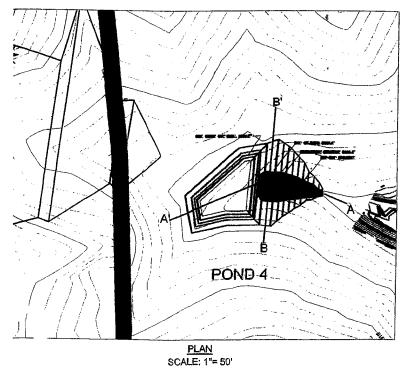
Area in Cut: 7,590.8 S.F., 0.17 Acres
Area in Fill: 654,609.7 S.F., 15.03 Acres
Total inclusion area: 662,200.5 S.F., 15.20 Acres
Cut to Fill ratio: 0.00
Average Cut Depth: 2.50 Average Fill Depth: 67.27
Cut (C.Y.) / Area (acres): 46.16
Fill (C.Y.) / Area (acres): 107279.94
Cut volume: 18,945.2 C.F., 701.68 C.Y
Fill volume: 44,033,573.9 C.F., 1,630,873.11 C.Y.

2550 2450 2450 2350 2250 2250 2150 2150 2100 8+00 9+00 Scale 1\*=100 Profile A-A' TOP ELEVATION' - 2465 FT HSL 2450 2450 2350 TOE ELEVATION - 2110 FT KSL 2250 2150 2150 2050 0+00 B+00 B+00 10+00 11+00 12+00 13+00 14+00 15+00 Socie 1\*\*100 Cross Section B-B' 2500 CD4-B 2500 CD4-A 2400 2400 2300. 0+00 2300 6+00 8cale 1\*=100 00+9 1+00 3+00 4+00 5+00 7+00 8+00 10+00 11+00 12+00

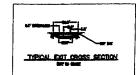
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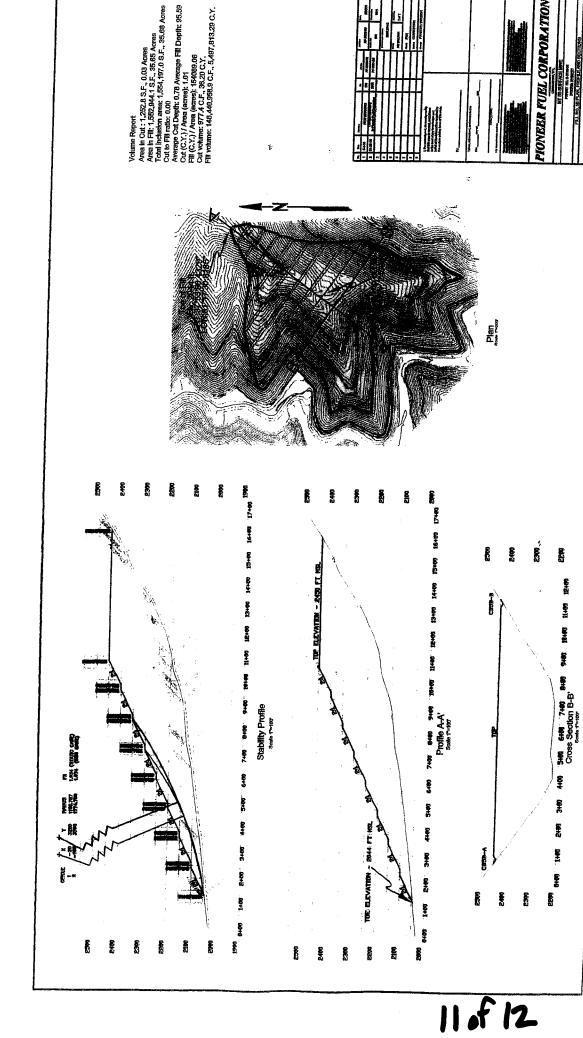


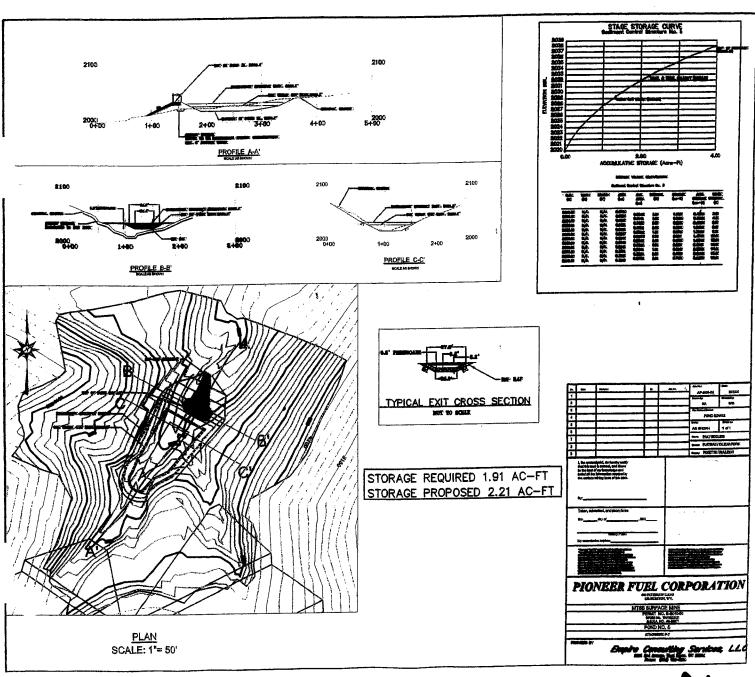


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